

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tape to be wound into a tire component which is made of unvulcanized rubber in which at least one cord is embedded along the length thereof, the number of said at least one cord being at most three, and a total width of said at least one cord in the widthwise direction of the tape being in a ~~range~~ range of from 1/100 to 1/2 times the width of the tape, wherein the thickness of the tape is larger in the cord embedded portion than the other portion.

2. (Original) A tape according to claim 1, wherein

said at least one cord has a diameter D in a range of 0.3 to 1.5 mm,

said width of the tape is in a range of from 10 to 30 mm, and

the thickness of the tape is in range of from 0.5 to 1.5 mm when measured in the portion other than the cord position.

3. (Original) A tape according to claim 1, wherein

the unvulcanized rubber has short fibers therein, and the short fibers are oriented in the longitudinal direction of the tape.

4. (Currently Amended) A tire component made of windings of a tape as claimed in ~~claim 1, 2 or 3~~ any one of claims 1-3 and 6-18.

5. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising a tire component made of windings of a tape as claimed in ~~claim 1, 2 or 3~~ any one of claims 1-3 and 6-18.

6. (New) A tape according to claim 1, wherein

said other portion than the cord embedded portion has a constant thickness not more than the cord thickness.

7. (New) A tape to be wound into a tire component which is made of unvulcanized rubber in which a single cord is embedded along the length thereof, wherein

said single cord has a diameter D in a range of 0.3 to 1.5 mm,

the width of the tape is in a range of from 10 to 30 mm,  
and

the thickness of the tape is in range of from 0.5 to 1.5 mm when measure in the portion other than the cord embedded portion.

8. (New) A tape according to claim 7, wherein

the thickness of the tape is substantially constant  
across the width of the tape.

9. (New) A tape according to claim 7, wherein

the thickness of the tape is larger in the cord embedded portion than the other portion.

10. (New) A tape according to claim 8 or 9, wherein

the unvulcanized rubber has short fibers therein, and the short fibers are oriented in the longitudinal direction of the tape.

11. (New) A tape to be wound into a tire component which is made of unvulcanized rubber in which only two cords are embedded along the length thereof, wherein

each said cord has a diameter  $D$  in a range of 0.3 to 1.5 mm,

the width of the tape is in a range of from 10 to 30 mm, and

the thickness of the tape is in range of from 0.5 to 1.5 mm when measured in the portion other than the cord embedded portion.

12. (New) A tape according to claim 11, wherein

the thickness of the tape is substantially constant across the width of the tape.

13. (New) A tape according to claim 11, wherein

the thickness of the tape is larger in the cord embedded portion than the other portion.

14. (New) A tape according to claim 12 or 13, wherein

the unvulcanized rubber has short fibers therein, and the short fibers are oriented in the longitudinal direction of the tape.

15. (New) A tape to be wound into a tire component which is made of unvulcanized rubber in which only three cords are embedded along the length thereof, wherein

each said cord has a diameter  $D$  in a range of 0.3 to 1.5 mm,

the width of the tape is in a range of from 10 to 30 mm, and

the thickness of the tape is in range of from 0.5 to 1.5 mm when measured in the portion other than the cord embedded portion.

16. (New) A tape according to claim 15, wherein

the thickness of the tape is substantially constant across the width of the tape.

17. (New) A tape according to claim 16, wherein

the thickness of the tape is larger in the cord embedded portion than the other portion.

18. (New) A tape according to claim 16 or 17, wherein

the unvulcanized rubber has short fibers therein, and the short fibers are oriented in the longitudinal direction of the tape.

19. (New) A pneumatic tire according to claim 5, wherein

said tire component is a sidewall rubber.